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Energy & Technology Committee  
Room 3900  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

First, let me express my extreme gratitude to Co-Chairs Vickie Nardello and John Fonfara for their understanding and objective approach to this very important issue of the siting of industrial wind turbines as part of Connecticut's plan for alternative energy sources. I thank the committee members for providing the opportunity for all members of the public to weigh in on this important issue. And in the end it is my hope that you will realize that this is first and foremost, an issue of responsible setbacks. The group which I preside over, Save Prospect Corp., is firmly founded in the belief that alternative energy sources must be utilized which provide for much needed energy, while reducing the carbon footprint on our planet. It is also our strong belief that the lives of Connecticut's residents cannot be put at risk to accomplish this goal.

Just over three months ago my world was turned upside down. I went from life as a teacher at Naugatuck High School, father of a daughter who attends Southern Connecticut State University as a social work major, and a 13-year old daughter, Sarah, a honor society student at Long River Middle School. It is at Sarah's school, where in three weeks hearings will be heard by the Connecticut Siting Council to determine whether Sarah's life, and that of our family and those neighbors we have come to love, will ever be the same again. For that reason, Sarah is here with me today. I am showing her that this very public process today clearly illustrates that our country represents the will of the people to direct government to do the right thing. I have explained to her that it is government's job to protect its citizens, and that is what I am asking of you today. So I ask will you move this bill forward, on to the governor's desk to protect the rights of the good people of Prospect?

This sudden rush for wind energy in the south end of Prospect has taken us all by surprise. Until mid-October of last year not a soul in Prospect knew this was coming. To a person, we feel like our liberties, made possible by the constitution, have been stripped away. Now after the fact, we attend local council and commission meetings every week along side of developers who have run tests for almost two years but have never considered us, the residents of Prospect. Is that the type of state we have become? Where important policies such as the development of wind energy will be done in a vacuum, at the exclusion of the state's residents? Shouldn't the state's residents be part of the solution. Shouldn't the state's residents make the decisions on how we can all reduce the carbon footprint? Remember the calls in past years by elected state and national leaders to turn down thermostats in winter and up in summer, to conserve electricity in our homes, and gas in our cars? Can we use the bully pulpit again to make a difference? Why

can't we involve the best of the state, its residents, in the development of alternative sources like wind energy? Why let developers move forward without the full input and contribution of those that elected you to office?

We are told by our local town leaders that they support us but that the law prevents them from doing anything to ensure our protection, in that the statutes give the Siting Council full jurisdiction. My neighbors and town officials ask me repeatedly how there could be no regulations for such industrial activity, so it is with the great hope that we proceed today with discussion and review of this important legislation to create a moratorium on wind power development while needed regulations are enacted.

This afternoon many speakers from both Prospect and Colebrook, and I'm sure other towns, will provide very detailed concerns based upon extensive research that we have been forced to accomplish in three short months due to the lack of advance notice by developers seeking approval for these wind projects. You will be astounded by what you learn and we hope that the foundation of our testimony will illustrate the very real risks associated with the siting of industrial wind turbines in or next to residential areas. It is not too late to fix lost opportunities of the past few years. We have waited this many years to follow the approach to alternative energy led by many countries around the world, and many states in America, and we can certainly justify spending the needed time to do it right. There have been important lessons learned from those installations, especially those that have been sited in or near residential areas with dire impact on the quality of life, health and property values for the residents. You will be shown a video today, which will give you an insight into these factors, and actual cases that make the importance of today's hearing so much more relevant.

I ask that you remain open to our input and balance the importance of your constituents against the pressure for alternative energy solutions. When doing so, understand that in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities there are stories about the residents. These stories are the fabric of our state and hold no less importance in your decision making than any other factor. And now let me share with you the story of Tyler Nitsch, an 11-year old boy who lives at 11 Lee Road in Prospect. Note that the Nitsch family home sits only 1700-feet from a proposed 492-foot industrial wind turbine, which is part of a proposal currently under review by the Connecticut Siting Council.

### **Tyler's Story**

Tyler's mom Marisa wanted to be here today to speak with you but could not be since she needs to be home for Tyler when he arrives home from school. Transitions are so important to her son Tyler who suffers from epilepsy, bipolar mood disorder, autism, anxiety disorder, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Tyler is afflicted with frequent seizures and has a seizure-alert, mood/autism service dog. Tyler is a big brother to his 6-month old sister Sophia and stepbrother to Colette who is seven. I have met Tyler and I can tell you that on appearance he is the "boy next door". I can also share with you that he whispered in his mom's ear, "Why are these two men here?" It was readily apparent that he is easily affected by anything out of his norm, which his family spends considerable time ensuring is never compromised. The Nitsch has a fully integrated home video system which tracks Tyler's movement both in the house and outside in the yard. Their main display panel is located in the airy kitchen where they, like many people, spend so much time.

Tyler's dad Mark recently deployed to Kuwait with the Air Force, and he hopes to return to his family in June. The family moved to their Prospect home just two years ago, leaving behind the more frenetic life in busy Yonkers, New York. They settled in Prospect with in the hope that this comparatively bucolic town and its welcoming neighbors could provide a safe, calm environment for Tyler to grow up in.

But even more ironic than the fact that they left busy Yonkers for the quiet of Prospect only to learn that noisy industrial wind turbines may ruin their dreams, this couple has done more for the environment than anyone I know, and I'm certain most folks you know, only to have wind developers tell them as members of Prospect's community that they are nimbys who are against green energy.

In 2009, the Nitsch family installed a \$38,000 Geo Thermal Green Energy unit. The construction process ran for two months and involved the excavation of their yard and the running of pipes 300 feet into the earth where water is warmed in the winter for heat and cooled in the summer for cooling. They have a common loop system. An example of this can be found at the following web site address:

<http://www.geocomfort.com/geothermal-technology>

So the Nitsch family is environmentally ahead of most of us in many ways, but now faces a life they did not bargain for when buying their house. Tyler loves the outdoors, playing in his yard and swimming in the family pool in summer months. He goes out to the yard for comfort, to relax. The yard is fenced in for his protection. Marisa tells me that Tyler has anxiety fears and that certain noises and constant droning sounds affect him negatively. The constant "whooshing" of the turbines as the blades sweep by the tower is her biggest concern. Marisa also worries whether these sounds will have any impact on the service dog's ability to stay focused on his only job, and that is to sense seizures before and as they are happening, thereby protecting Tyler's safety.

And with a direct west facing location of their property, if wind turbines were installed as proposed, their lives would have to adapt from each evening's beautiful sunsets to the disturbing shadow flicker that results from the setting sun cutting through the spinning blades (please refer to the video). She worries greatly about the impact these factors will have. They have been well reported from communities around the world, and the effect on quality of life and the health of residents is indisputable.

This is just one of many real life stories that exist in neighborhoods around the state. And it is the reason for Save Prospect Corp.'s position that industrial wind turbines should never be sited in neighborhood areas. Our system of government provides for the proper zoning of property to protect the health and safety of citizens, and the quality of life and value of one's property. The members of Save Prospect Corp ask that the committee members consider the importance of our communities. They are the lifeblood of Connecticut. Let's make our alternative energy initiative work from the start and not start with a mistake on our first wind power projects in our state. We can do no less for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Reilly  
President